

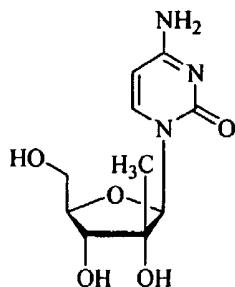
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

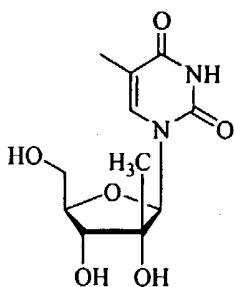
Claims 1-99 (cancelled)

~~Claim 100~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



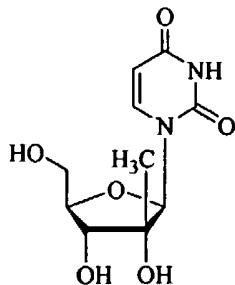
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8/10/04*
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

~~Claim 101~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

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Claim 102 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 103-129 (cancelled)

10
Claim 130 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for oral delivery.

11
Claim 131 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intravenous delivery.

12
Claim 132 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for parenteral delivery.

13
Claim 133 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intradermal delivery.

14
Claim 134 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for subcutaneous delivery.

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Claim 135 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for topical delivery.

Claim 136 (cancelled)

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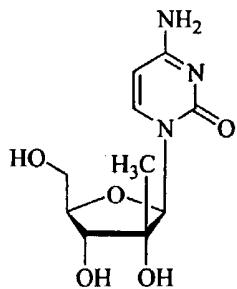
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Claim 137 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 140-152, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit, such that said dosage unit ~~17~~ contains 10 to 1500 mg of the compound. 7 8 9 1 - 6

Claim 138 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 140-145 18, 140-152, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit that is a tablet or capsule.

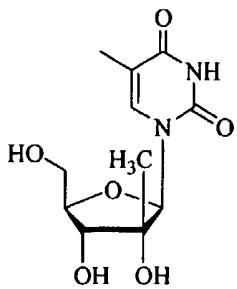
Claim 139 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, or 102, or 146-152 18, wherein the host is a human. 7 8 9

Claim 140 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection 1 in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



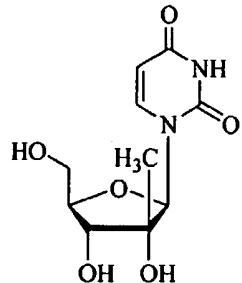
2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 141 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



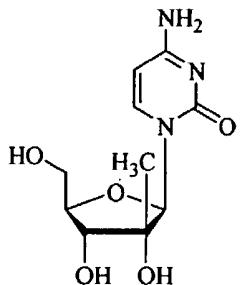
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

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Claim 142 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



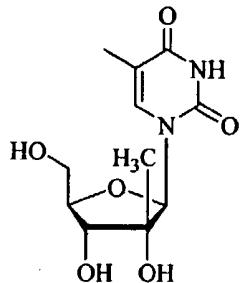
4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 143 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



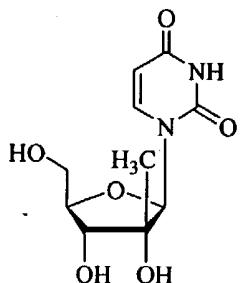
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 144 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 145 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 146 -156 (cancelled)

Claim 157 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100-102 or 140-145,

20 wherein the compound is at least 90% by weight free of the β -L-isomer.

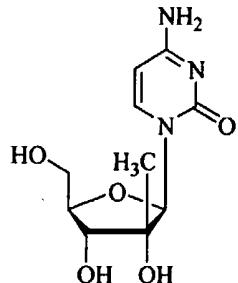
Claim 158 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100-102 or 140-145,

wherein the compound is at least 95% by weight free of the β -L-isomer.

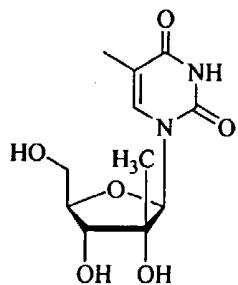
21 7 9 1 6
Claim 159 (currently amended): The method as in any one of claims 100-102 or 140-145
145-150, wherein the compound is at least 85% by weight free of the β -L-isomer.

Claims 160 - 179 (cancelled)

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Claim 180 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection
in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally
effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:

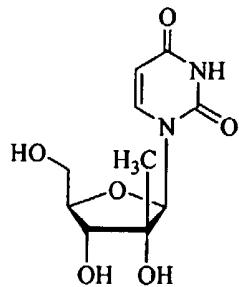


Claim 181 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection
in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally
effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



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Claim 182 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



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Claim 183 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a β -D-2'-C-branched pyrimidine nucleoside.

Claim 184 (previously presented): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a β -D-2'-C-branched pyrimidine ribonucleoside. 25 26

Claim 185 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 183-184, wherein the host is a human.